BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. IX May 15, 1941 No. 10

FICTION

MUST BOOKS

May 20

Ellsberg, Com. Edward CAPTAIN PAUL Dodd, Mead

* John Paul Jones is a glamorous and dramatic figure in America's history, and this is the best novel built around his story that I have happened to read. Wisely enough, Commander Ellsberg has resisted the temptation to make him the central figure, but has used him as foil for his story teller, a Nantucket lad, whose fates cast him for a role aboard a ship, while his inclinations turn towards a career as a printer such as his cousin Benjamin Franklin. A good third of the story tells of his mis-adventures aboard a whaler; then - in the harbor at Tobago, he meets the man who is to be his hero through life, John Paul, part owner of a vessel, and in dire straits. From that time on, their paths cross and recross, while John Paul, under an assumed name, Paul Jones, lives a checkered and brilliantly erratic career, - as privateer, as beach comber, as junior officer in the infant country's hardly won navy, as petitioner in foreign courts for a ship of the line, as victorious advocate of a cause again and again emperilled. And always, the Nantucket youth, Tom Folger, is his staunch adherent, and chronicler. Through the pattern of adventure and victory and defeat and misunderstandings, runs a slender thread of romance, but this is secondary to the story of a strange bit of naval history in the making. Ellsberg has made the most of a story full of conflict and contradiction; more important still, he has brought Captain Paul alive. He has a keen nose for history; and an adroit skill as tale spinner. As selection for June Literary Guild, this title has once more been pushed forward. Sorry we are so late in reporting it. But don't miss it. Good man's tale, particularly.$2.75

Names! Names! Names! One Dark Horse

June-July publication lists bring many familiar names to the fore, with varying success as to saleability. Two short story collections from novelists, - Mary Roberts Rinehart and Elizabeth Goudge; two first rate light novels from dependable authors, Katherine Brush and D.E. Stevenson; a somewhat disappointing book from Evelyn Eaton, RESTLESS ARE THE SAILS; and one dark horse which introduces a new upper-cut rental library bet, in THE STARS GIVE WARNING by Brenda Conrad. Good level of mysteries, with one outstanding, Cornell Woolrich, THE BLACK CURTAIN. See below for reports.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - Fiction

June 13

Daniels, Harriet McDoual NINE MILE SWAMP Penn

An unusual bit of historical fiction, woven into a plausible and very readable tale. It is a story built around the Loomis gang, a family of counterfeiters and horse thieves, who - in their softer moments - were good to the poor and to some of their neighbors. (The section is near Waterville, N.Y., the time round and about

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the Civil War.) Into this family the author has projected her fictional character, one member who yearned to be honest, and who yet could not turn against his kin. As the plot unfolds, one gets a fresh slant on sectional history and politics, and the story comes to a head when the gang is smashed - and the boy saved for the girl he loves. This should reach a market for historical romance. $2.50

~~Mid~~ June 25

Eaton, Evelyn RESTLESS ARE THE SAILS Harper

The author of *Quietly My Captain Waits* gives us another thoroughly documented historical romance, again dipping into the history of Canada's maritime provinces. The period is 1744-46; the setting Acadia, at the time when the fanatically bitter New Englanders organized an expedition against Louisbourg, on what is now known as Cape Breton and took the town. At the start of the story, Paul, captive Acadian, is urged on to escape by rumors of the proposed expedition. With an English comrade, in a stolen ketch, he makes an incredible trip - only to have his news discounted. Into the story, with its adventure and misadventure, its tragic sequel, and stormy romance, is packed a panorama of history, of characters, of incidents in the dark days of the harried French fleet. The fictional characters seem two-dimensional, stock figures; the plot seems overladen; the romance fails to capture one's sympathy. All in all, a disappointing book to follow the thrilling story of glamorous Louise de Freneuse. The book will undoubtedly have substantial sales and rentals; there is plenty of action, fast-paced plot; the publishers are backing it with a bigger promotion schedule than used in the earlier book, - posters, imprinted cards, metropolitan advertising. $2.50

June 16 ✓

Goudge, Elizabeth THE GOLDEN SKYLARK Coward, McCann

A charming collection of short stories in Elizabeth Goudge's best vein. Some have a touch of fantasy, skillfully blended with realism; others tap a rich historical background, linked with famous names (Percy Shelley; Shakespeare's dark lady; Henry the Eighth and the young Elizabeth; Sir Thomas Moore and his lovely daughter). The settings are somewhat varied, though the Channel Islands, and the unpredictable du Frocq family, come in again and again. There are children in almost every tale - and Miss Goudge has a sure touch with children. Here are no problem stories, but a sheaf of lovely tales that carry one away from today's headlines. $2.50 ✓

June 24

Lee, Harry NO MEASURE DANCED Macmillan

Picture of an unprincipled, personally ambitious woman, realizing, too late, that what she has achieved doesn't count. Not a pretty picture, this of a modern Scarlett O'Hara, without Scarlett's magnetism. A department store career, marriage in which she uses a man's love and the contacts she has made to further her own ends, ultimately resulted in a wrecked life, victim of her own methods. A more solid picture than the usual one of a woman driven by the business she is in to sacrifice everything for her individual ends, rationalizing the means justifying them. The author won the Carl Bohnenberger medal for *Fox in the Cloak*, in 1938. $3.00

July 7

Brush, Katharine YOU GO YOUR WAY Farrar & Rinehart

* Airy amorantics by a crack hand; the setting a wealthy New York background, for the marriage of an average young man and a spoiled young woman. Completely charming

and illogical, Connie surrounds herself with a college chorus of admirers, until Bill balks. Then she is faced with uncertainty as between Bill and a likable young man, more serious than his predecessors - and choses an equidistant point while she looks them over. Eventually, standpat Bill wins out - the depression has sobered him and made a man of him, and he'll have none of this. Lightweight, comedy of manners, modern in tone. Good for rentals where a smart, slick romance is wanted. $2.00

July 1

Stevenson, D.E. MRS. TIM CARRIES ON Farrar & Rinehart

Here is a glimpse behind the scenes of an army post in Scotland in war time, without the constant harrowing of the tragedies of wartime Britain. Social-gossipy recording, pleasant, humorous, popular minutiae of family and military backdrop. "Mrs. Tim of the Regiment" carries on through 1940; she meddles in her friends' activities, she faces the fear of Tim's loss, she bridges the language gap when Polish soldiers arrive on the scene, she forwards a romance between a houseguest and a wounded soldier, she and Tim look beyond the days of war to a future outside the army. This sort of human story is needed to keep one's sense of balance in regard to life going on in Britain today. And D. E. Stevenson does it with just the right touch. $2.50

Meller, Sidney HOME IS HERE Macmillan

Roots in the Sky, in 1938, showed Sidney Meller's ability to show the many faceted relations of a Jewish community against an American background. Now he has used his penetrating and sympathetic insight in a long, homely, kindly version of the reorientation of an Italian immigrant family. There is a mellower quality than di Donato and some of his fellow Italian writers convey, but in this very softening process, there is a tendency to dulling the effect on the reader. Alano comes to America, builds a home and sends for his family to come from Lake Como to San Francisco. And then, on the edge of his hill, the quarry starts to encroach upon the lives of the little hill colony. It is a warm, friendly picture of new Americans, in two generations trying to bridge the gap. As a picture of an emotional, superstitious, big-hearted people it is successful; as a novel it seems limited in appeal. $2.50

July 11

Howard, Mary STRANGERS IN LOVE Doubleday, Doran

Another candidate for the Greig-Ayres market, rental library props, with some following in public library candidates for pop romance. There's an ex mother-in-law angle to this one, as small-time despot Queen Dyson uses undercover tactics to set Grant, stalwart Yorkshireman, and his wife Lisa, at odds. But they find out what is at the root of their problems, just in time, and love wins out. $2.00

July 14

Steig, Henry SEND ME DOWN Knopf

Another fictionization of hot jazz, quite different from its predecessors. More graphic, more detailed, perhaps more authentic - but without the punch that put over *Young Man With a Horn*. There's plenty of sex - drink - reefers and hard language in the story of two youths, brothers, who together symbolize a composite picture of the emergence of swing, of the grind from bottom to top, of hot music as it is lived. It hasn't quite the intensity, the "feel" of the music that made the Baker book so unusual. Definitely not for public libraries. And in bookshops, not for either conservatives, or for those who have no taste for the seamy side of modern jazz. $2.50

July 21

Rinehart, Mary Roberts FAMILIAR FACES Farrar & Rinehart

A volume of short stories from the hand of a good craftsman, the type of stories that one can safely recommend for people who want good, substantial woman's magazine reading. Marriage, in high gear and low, forms the subject of a good many of the stories, but the ones I liked best were homespun human interest stories about old people. For the type of story, and the quality, read *One Hour of Glory*, in which a veteran of the Civil War visits his grandson in Washington today; *The Philanderer's Wife*, in which a woman celebrates her Silver Wedding by asking for a divorce; *Mr. Cohen Takes A Walk*, in which an old Jew feels himself being put on the shelf, and sets out to get acquainted with the world again. The stories wont add new laurels to Mrs. Rinehart's wreath, but they should have a reasonably good market. $2.50

July 25

Smith, Thorne THE PASSIONATE WITCH Doubleday, Doran

Posthumous book by the creator of Topper - completed by Norman Matson. With mangled arguments, more than enough drinking and going-to-bed scenes, a sedate widower, a sort of Mr. Milquetoast, finds himself married to a witch who spells on him and on his secretary. Her corporeal death fails to free him, for her spirit carries on, malevolently, in the body of an old horse. Drink seems a way out, and our Mr. Wooly lands in numerous predicaments. In the Thorne Smith tradition, but not ranking the early books. A spot of light, sometimes hilarious, entertainment. $2.00

July-indef.

Conrad, Brenda THE STARS GIVE WARNING Scribner

* Feminine-fashioned, and good entertainment value in this blend of romance and espionage, with a setting of Panama and the U.S. Navy. Puss-in-the-corner matrimonial entanglements, with Lisa and Nick Brandon, Andy (also of the U.S. Navy), and a fifth columnist posing as a German refugee, as the foursome involved. Slick writing, good plotting, and a convincing handling of background, make this a definitely above average tale. Rentals primarily, but should cut a wide swathe in the ranks of those who want better books, even in their rental libraries. $2.00??

Just Arrived - Late

Bairnsfather, Bruce & Dalyrymple, Ian OLD BILL & SON David McKay

A classic of the last war put into fiction by his creator (with editorial assistance), and brought up to date, with British humor, amusing in spots, sentimental in spots, and all very characteristic of the character as he has been immortalized on stage and in pictures. He has come through the years of peace, but with another war, he cannot resist joining up, though not in an active capacity. He follows his son to France - gets into adventures and misadventures - and winds up capturing, single handed, a machine gun nest of Germans, only to find his son before him. One wonders- after brief checking - how much this generation knows of Old Bill? $2.00

And These Pocket Books - Also Late

Zola Emile - NANA

Wilson Margery - POCKETBOOK OF ETIQUETTE

Gardner, Erle Stanley - CASE OF THE LUCKY LEGS

THE POCKETBOOK OF GREAT DETECTIVES

Mysteries, Westerns and Thrillers

June 9

Coolidge, Dane BEAR PAW Dutton

For Coolidge fans, this passes master. Tale of ranchowner Bear Paw, who lets rustlers use his water hole until he becomes their victim, and then, with the aid of an old Texas Ranger and two American soldiers of fortune, calls a halt to illegal proceedings. Fights, adventurous journeyings into Mexico, romance. But - reviewers to the contrary, not ace high. $2.00

June 13

Woolrich, Cornell THE BLACK CURTAIN Simon & Schuster

* Trick teaser and very nice job, though not a straight mystery. The story involves a murder committed during a three year period of amnesia. Townsend finds the wife who had not seen him during his disappearance, when he comes to, and also finds that he is being tailed, for an unknown reason. He uncovers the past, the lost identity, sets out to clear himself of the murder charge - and does so only after a fatal finale. Original - neatly sustained. $2.00

June ~~16~~ 6.

Ashbrook, H. THE PURPLE ONION MYSTERY Coward, McCann

Spike Tracy, free lance sleuth, again the 'tec on the murder of the secretary of a New York publisher, Penton. Penton, new high in cads, has quite a way with the women, and several inamoratas figure as suspects. Side issues involve jewel frauds, blackmail, and money - though it turns out to be a *crime passionel*. Tame game. $2.00

June 25

Carr, John Dickson THE CASE OF THE CONSTANT SUICIDES Harper

A good combination, entertaining, fair and sometimes funny. Dr. Gideon Fell, insurance policies, Scottish law, a new twist to the locked room problem - linked together by liquor, a romance and a suicide - and brought to a head by two murders, hauntings and a ubiquitous newspaperman. Could you ask more? $2.00

Early July

Abbey, Kieran RUN WITH THE HARE Scribner

* Good job on the lady-alone theme, as Susan Courage, sure that her husband, recently returned from South America, no longer loves her, is in the dark about four killings and the incessant search for a dressing case she has acquired. She trusts no one, fears everyone, takes no chances, but - through her ignorance - gums up two lines of pursuit. Only her husband's intervention saves her from death. Set against Connecticut country and New York City. Good feminine appeal. $2.00

Ford, Leslie MURDER OF A FIFTH COLUMNIST Scribner

Grace Latham, Col. Primrose and Sergeant Buck together again, in a case involving triple murder, subversive propaganda, F.B.I. There's a woman of mystery and a daughter, there's trouble among columnists, there's the glitter of Washington's inner circle. Of course Grace earns disapproval by intervening, but it all untangles. Smooth job. (S E P serialization) $2.00

July 8

Dodge, David DEATH AND TAXES Macmillan

New angled approach to the sleuth saga, in the specialization field of income tax material. Death results when a refund claim case is about to be opened, and C.P.A. tax consultant Whitney carries on for his murdered partner and is bait for traps the police set. He gets the runaround from two women, suffers sunburn, shots and a bodyguard to outface the killer and framer-upper. A job of interest to men almost solely. 'Ware public libraries. Good rough tough version of California chicanery. $2.00

July 10

Fuller, Timothy REUNION WITH MURDER Little, Brown

Reunion story No. 3 - but with a difference. For this is a very original murder mystery. Jupiter Jones, on the brink of his marriage, becomes embroiled in yet another tangle, this time involving death on the golf course during a tenth reunion celebration. By dint of keeping underfoot continually, and using his brain and playing his hunches, Jupiter reaches a solution, gets confession of motive and walks out on the police, barely in time to go on a honeymoon. Loose spots-but good going. $2.00

July 15

Tuttle, W.C. THE TIN GOD OF TWISTED RIVER Houghton, Mifflin

Disappointing Hashknife Hartley and Sleepy Stevens yarn, as they investigate a mysterious note that warns them to keep away from Arapaho City. Murders meet them, and they clear innocent men and regenerate reprobates, with usual aplomb. Substandard. $2.00

July 16

Mersereau, John DEATH COMES ASHORE Lippincott

Xenophon York, captaining a freighter, finds his unloading held up in Central America, by murders, girl trouble; his employer is held on suspicion of the first killing; the local police are generally uncooperative. He untangles the happenings; he puts the police straight; and he clears his cargo. There's a mysterious archaeologist involved, a scheming wife, a suspicious drunk and a belligerent pilot. Only so-so. $2.00

July 24

Coffin, Carlyn MARE'S NEST Farrar & Rinehart

A runner up in the M.R.R. contest, and a good example of the chatty variety as Mrs. Nash, recouping from a fractured leg, is decidedly *not* hors de combat, when there is a murder mix-up at her brother's home in Maryland. With her brother's death, she becomes the pivot of interest, safeguards seem not too dependable, but she manages to escape complete extinction and to trap the killer. Feminine interest primarily. $2.00

July 25

Clifford, Charles L. WHILE THE BELLS RANG Doubleday, Doran

An army captain on the Texas border is tried and convicted of murder and his best friend and girl set out to prove him innocent, enmeshing themselves in a civilian ranch, where there are Mexican mixups and plenty of poison-tongue chatter. Amateur sleuthing lends them in trouble with everyone. Complicated but colorful tale. $2.00

A DARK HORSE

~~July 25~~ August 8

Lothar, Dr. Ernst *ed.* A WOMAN IS WITNESS "A Paris Diary" Doubleday, Doran

One of the most spontaneous and spirited books to come out of the present war, and perhaps more harrowing and moving at the close for the very fact of the contrast in the picture of youth and gaiety at the start. This very personal account of two years in France before its collapse is edited from the diary of a young girl, Franzi, who leaves Vienna when chance offers her a transfer of her job to Paris. There she meets and loves Pierre Durand, liberal journalist, married and with two children. His wife is Nazi-minded and fights his wish for divorce through the courts; Franzi herself is baited by the Gestapo. Then comes the war - Pierre Durand is critically wounded and dies, not knowing the fate of his country; Franzi, in an effort to protect her father, a refugee from Nazi rule in Austria, shots at a S.S. man, and is herself sentenced to death. A gallant, high hearted intimate and wholly natural record, a vignette of a lesser tragedy provoked by a major one. The predominance of the romance over politics gives it a human note that may serve to carry its message to a wider audience. Frances Barrows Mussey $2.50

A Few High Spots

There's another panel in G. B. Stern's autobiography, ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST (Macmillan); Frederic Van de Water has told supremely well the story of Vermont, THE RELUCTANT REPUBLIC (John Day); Claire MacMurray's AND BEAT HIM WHEN HE SNEEZES (Stokes), is gay entertainment for dark days. Not an assured market title in the lot. The war books which are pouring from the presses, with no advance hurrah, are grouped together, for quicker appraisal. See below for reports.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

Late May ~~27~~ 29

Stern, G. B. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST Macmillan

This is a sure tidbit for the G. B. Stern fans, particularly for those who like *Monogram*. But it wont extend her market, not even to the extent that *Monogram* may have done. It is a somewhat rambling, very charming, very characteristic chatty volume of reminiscences, of opinions, of moods and thoughts, with a nostalgic quality that carries one right into intimate understanding of a personality, rather than of events. There is no chronological sequence, one follows as her mind wills. It is like meeting a delightful, cultured and somewhat erratically brilliant person, and leaving her with a sense of knowing her well, but knowing almost nothing about her setting or family or what happened when. Literary lions cross her pages; in the next page she carries you back into impressions and friendships of her childhood; then suddenly she is letting one thing suggest another, and you are far away. So - again - if you are a G. B. Stern fan (I am) you'll have fun with this. But you'll wish she had taken a little more trouble about making her signposts a little more defined for the people who don't know already what good company she is. $3.00

June 1

Sullivan, Dorothea *ed.* THE PRACTICE OF GROUP WORK Association Press

Useful for teacher-leader problems, reference book of practical application, livened by case histories of clubs, camps, and the arousing of their interest in play, theater, housing, unions, democracy, health, citizenship, etc. Through a series of articles by group leaders, one sees how therapy, coordination and discussion

clarify the thinking of these groups of all ages, kinds and races. The use of group activity as a tool of education, of personality development, of socialization of the individual. $2.00

June 3

House, Boyce OIL BOOM Caxton

A backward glance at the days when Texan El Dorados meant glamorous, sensational, feverish times. The story of successive wells, - Spindletop, which made Beaumont the greatest show on earth in 1901; Burkburnett, when the Fowler roared in; the muleskinners of Hogtown; Mexia, which led to Teapot Dome; Rangers, gaudiest of them all. Interspersed are anecdotes of the riotous, lawless life. Well written, authentic, based largely on the narratives of eye witnesses. For men chiefly. $3.00

Ratchford, Fannie Elizabeth THE BRONTES WEB OF CHILDHOOD Columbia Univ. Press

From a detailed analysis of the "juvenilia", the Bronte childhood manuscripts which have been only lately made accessible, the author has been able to open many doors, and dispel many legends, concerning that gifted, haunted family. From the stories, poems, novels, dramas and histories written over a period of fifteen years, a world of nonsense and fancy, a "web of sunny air", is shown, instead of the bleak, lonely household usually pictured. Here are the sources of future genius; here is the negation of Branwell's talents; here is Charlotte's abortive love affair. A provocative and seemingly conclusive evaluation of prolific papers that have been often dismissed as meaningless. A book for students of literature. And a beautiful piece of bookmaking. $3.50

~~June 10~~ July 15

Herring, Hubert GOOD NEIGHBORS Yale
Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Seventeen Other Countries

* This is an important book, a book that should be widely read. I hope that the concentrated sense of "ought" which prevails in study groups, women's clubs, even in Rotary Clubs and so forth, in regard to cementing the good neighbor policy by practice, will speed this book on its way. For here - for the first time - an author has succeeded in analyzing our neighbors to the South, - their inner characteristics, their vulnerability to Axis methods, their relation to each other and to us. Here is no glamorous travel book, no colorful personal experience record, no rose-colored picture of amity - but a book for the realist who would know the best and the worst. $3.00

June 6

Fernsworth, Lawrence *ed.* DICTATORS AND DEMOCRATS McBride

A compilation of profiles by ace interviewers and reporters, drawn from many sources. The political potentates of Europe, Asia and the Americas and many lesser fry. Among the reporters are such stars as Dorothy Thompson, Clare Booth, Ralph Ingersoll, Pierre Van Paassen, Louis Adamic, Eugene Lyons and others. Prime profiling, in a far reaching collection of intimate portraits. $3.00

June 9

Rawson, Marion Nicholl THE OLD HOUSE PICTURE BOOK Dutton

Companion volume to *The Antiquer's Picture Book*, and like that, drawn from her fascinating records of a world passed by. In this volume, she has brought together,

under classifications, sketches of roof lines, doorways, windows, chimneys, fireplaces, doors, wall treatments, architectural bits, that weave a fascinating pattern of America's inheritance. (And incidentally, supply a useful reference tool.) Every lover of old things is a potential customer for these books. $2.50

Brodie, Bernard SEA POWER IN THE MACHINE AGE Princeton Press

An excellent book, for the general reader who is alert to the products of modern technology in their drastic effects upon naval strategy and tactics. The book constitutes a history of sea power with emphasis on the ever-changing fleets, rather than their operations. The introduction of the steam engine, the iron hull, armorplate, the breach-loading rifle - changing pattern of the 19th century. Then of immediate interest, the treatment of underwater and aerial craft and weapons, still in process of development, and remoulding, day by day, today's warfare. The author's approach is sound, avoiding unbalanced fancies of sensational extremists, and proving his thorough grasp of fundamental principles of maritime warfare. A book of interest to those who want to enrich their background of technical knowledge. $3.75

June 10

Macminn, George R. THE THEATER OF THE GOLDEN ERA IN CALIFORNIA Caxton

A "social history" of a period and a region, the 1850's in California, when the gold rush demanded entertainment, and performers and artists catered to a heterogeneous demand, and followed the fortunes as they boomed and deflated. The first performances, the theaters, amateurs and professionals, music, minstrel shows, farce, comedy, actors and vehicles - and all the attendant troubles of fire and flood, scandal and criticism, jealousies and feuds. Lola Montez and Lotta Grabtree held the limelight. Selective but an excellent general coverage. Source material has been tapped, and the book rings an authentic note. Good local market - plus. Ill'd.$5.00

June 11

Morgan, Thomas SPURS ON THE BOOT Longmans, Green

* Morgan was foreign correspondent for the A.P. in Italy when Mussolini came into power. For 20 years he has observed keenly, and stored impressions of the changing scene. Here is the result - swift journalese, an irreverent picture of the coming of Fascism to Italy, a full length, though perhaps not deep cut portrait of Mussolini, and of Italy under him. He shows all sides, grave and sordid; he reveals Mussolini's chicanery, deceptions, political and social acrobatics, his currying favor with church and state, his spy system, his ruthlessness when he no longer needs help. Finally his bluff called by Hitler - and Italy betrayed. Essentially readable. $2.50

~~June 13~~ Sept 28

Habas, Ralph A. THE ART OF SELF CONTROL Reynal & Hitchcock

It has been said before, in various ways, but with today's demand for patterns for living that fit today's challenge, perhaps this approach will provide a fillip. The emphasis is on habits, - the breaking of bad ones, the forming of good ones, since through controlling one's habits one controls onesself. He supplies exercises and techniques, until you find yourself playing games with yourself while reading the book. He indicates ways of self discipline, self punishment, self reward. He applies his theories to practical problems such as improving work habits, physical and mental cooperation, raising standards of efficiency. He points his morals with examples from the lives of eminent people. This for the self-help shelf. $2.00

June 15

Wasserman, Louis THE HANDBOOK OF POLITICAL ISMS Association Press

Exactly what its title suggests - a description of the various social and political philosophies under which people live and for which many are dying today. In no sense a deep study nor a scholarly work for the author merely attempts to give you a general picture of social doctrines without a personal interpretation. He defines democracy, liberalism, capitalism, marxianism, socialism, communism, fascism, nazism, the cooperative movement, and so on. Neither controversial nor stimulating to discussion. $1.25

June 16

Alexander, F. Matthias MAN'S SUPREME INHERITANCE - New Edition Dutton

This book is reissued, with new format, new jacket, and a new preface, which indicates the applicability of the basic principles to today's challenge and the future. The first half presents his findings in the abstract - his conclusions of the need of an open mind, of conscious control as the basis for reeducation and growth. He pricks many bubbles - theory of the unconscious, modern educational methods, physical culture. In the second half of the book, he applies his theories to practice, illustrating with case histories, and analyzing his methods. Not a book for the casual reader, but for the psychologist, the student, for those who are working towards a new freedom. $2.50

Morrison, Herbert; Spring, Howard; THIS WAR WE WAGE Emerson
& Delafield, E.M.

Don't overlook this, for here, in a bit over 100 pages, three reliable witnesses bear testimony to comparative conditions, physical and psychological, in Nazi Germany and free England (or by implication, free America). A picture of how it is and how it has been done - and how it would, indubitably, be done, were Hitler to conquer England. In all phases of daily life, in all contacts, human relations, sources of information, education, religion, the poison enters in. Everything we hold dear is menaced. An unimpassioned, clearcut, vigorous picture, which should carry weight wherever certain elements believe "it can't happen here". Dramatic photographs. $1.00

June 16 √

Van de Water, Frederic F. THE RELUCTANT REPUBLIC John Day

* Every Vermonter - wherever he may roam - is potential market for this book. Most New Englanders, by inheritance as well as by residence, will find this story of Vermont, up to the time of its statehood, a fascinating bit of Americana. From the stormy days when settlers had to battle against odds of nature, against Indian wariness, through the almost continuous struggle to hold off clutching hands - Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York all claimed the land that became Vermont. Then, with Ethan Allen as leader, the Green Mountain Boys wrote history - they fought for their right to their own homes, they fought against French and Indians and British - they fought against Yorkers. And, with the Declaration of Independence, they fought to uphold the right to their own independence, and for a period, ignored by many historians, they maintained a separate republic, a sore spot in the new and struggling country. Fascinating reading, anecdotal, dramatic. But to those far from the eastern seaboard, it may seem overmuch detail, for one rugged bit of a great country. Vermont is celebrating her sesquicentennial this year. The publishers will supply a circular or a postcard, according to your needs. Illustrated. √ $3.00

June 23

Brunton, Paul THE HIDDEN TEACHING BEYOND YOGA Dutton

This is the most mature of Paul Brunton's books and should reach a more deeply philosophic audience, as well as his previous circle of readers interested in the Overself. He claims to have come to the point of development where "mysticism is not enough" - facing the limitations of mystic practices, and approaching his purpose through channels paralleling those which Einstein and the West have taken in mathematics, - truths relating to space and time, to relativity. Brunton's function is to stimulate, to awaken consciousness of these problems in readers who would hesitate before the imponderables of Pantajali, Einstein, the sages of the East. $3.50

Shelton, A.C. NEWFOUNDLAND *Our North Door Neighbor* Dutton

A beautiful picture book, which makes one yearn to go to Newfoundland for a vacation, to see this majestic coastal scenery, these quaint unspoiled villages, dense forests, grand lakes and rivers, this sportsman's paradise, before the traveler who sought all this in Scandinavia finds that it is here, just beyond his doorstep. One could wish that a trifle more space had been given to the significance of Newfoundland in the world picture, but after all this is a book for the vacation-minded, rather than the student of international affairs. Superb photography. $3.50

June 24

Long, Dr. Margaret THE SHADOW OF THE ARROW Caxton

Modern exploration of the pioneer routes of the successive expeditions through Death Valley, etc., filling in with legend, history, physical aspects of the places, and records of the men, through diaries and contemporary records of the '49ers. Capsule form for source material of the Jayhawker, Brier, Bennet-Arcane parties. Authentic reference material, but limited in general trade appeal. Photos & maps. $3.00

Gibbings, Robert SWEET THAMES RUN SOFTLY Dutton

* This is a book with a very special, personal sort of appeal. Call it to the attention of those who have a deep love for the old England, and would immortalize it; to those who know its placid countryside, and would appreciate this contemplative, discursive, personal record of a journey by boat on the upper Thames. Gibbings enriches his story with 50 choice wood engravings, which make the book an ideal gift book. Don't forget it - come Christmas. As a record of the Thames, it has a rival in E.Arnot Robertson's *Thames Portrait*.(Macmillan-1937). $2.50

Jones, Rufus M. A SMALL TOWN BOY Macmillan

An affectionate, anecdotal backward glance at a boyhood in Maine, spiced with a good bit of philosophy, of reverence for fundamental tenets of life. From a Quaker home, he writes of Quaker meeting, of the old grocery store and village center, of school days, of companions and outings, of the village "pillars". Days of self-sufficiency, when the community made all it needed, with its best crop its men and women. Rufus Jones is a name known to all Quakers, all Haverford graduates particularly. A book for older people, for conservative taste. $2.00

July 11

Pilat, Oliver & Ranson, J. SODOM BY THE SEA Doubleday, Doran
An affectionate History of Coney Island

Informal, colorful, swaggering and raucous, this story of Coney Island from the days of pirate treasure to the present, makes tough, free and easy reading. The closest analogy is that of the Asbury books - definitely not on the prim and puritanical reading list. The authors trace its career as a resort, from aristocracy to hoipolloi; its political eras; the competition with the Brightons; the robberies, murders, race track, prize fighting; the sensations, novelties, entertainment features; the amusement parks, side shows, boardwalk activities, the rackets and gangsters; and the censorship exercised over bathing garb. A lurid tale, of particular New York interest, (not to mention Brooklyn). $3.00

July 22

Swarthmore College faculty AN ADVENTURE IN EDUCATION Macmillan

Group portrait of the Swarthmore experiment under Frank Aydelotte. The characteristics of the method, of the principles developed during nineteen years, of the honors system; of the research, the arts and crafts work, the share taken by athletics; the part played by administration and finance. Indicates the value of the small institution, self-education, mental alertness, whether to honor students or others. A record of an experiment that has proved its worth. For all interested in education. $2.50

July 24

Rodman, Selden *ed.* THE POETRY OF FLIGHT Duell, Sloan & Pearce

* One of the most interesting anthologies of this period, in a widely ranged and provocatively selected collection of the literature of the air, prose and verse. Various approaches to the all-pervading power of flying - the closeness to the "edge of life" - the awareness of a pure medium without earthly limitations - the comradeship of the calling. From the classics to the moderns. Read for the unique experience an outstanding bit of prose narrative, *Knapsack of Salvation* by Langewiesche, describing the physical and emotional sensation of parachuting; and a spare, tense introductory poem by Fleming MacLiesh. $2.00

July 25

Beauman, Bentley - Wing Commander *ed.* THE AIRMEN SPEAK Doubleday, Doran

The officers and men of the R.A.F. present their reports - 75 individual reports, cross sectioning every activity, every branch of the service, in every aspect, whether in action or on the field, whether in fighter planes, bombers, observation service, maintenance; whether pilot, gunner or photographer. Authentic, impressive as a record of spirit, discipline, efficiency; in fact one would almost welcome some record of failure, of human frailty. There is no human touch, no personal lightness, no relief; it is all on one high plane of a job achieved. $2.50

Walmsley, Leo FISHERMEN AT WAR Doubleday, Doran

A Yorkshire novelist writes of his own village folk under fire, of the fishermen whose services to their country receive but little notice, of the endurance, imperturbability and quiet courage as they carry on. Walmsley was a pilot in the last war, and lives now on the Yorkshire coast with his family. He writes in intimate

detail of life aboard minesweepers, trawers, keelers, as day in, day out, the fishing folk do their vital work. He tells of dive bombing of unarmed fishing craft, of the R.A.F. defense work, of coastguards to the rescue, of Dunkirk. Another phase of England at war, by necessity lacking the dramatics of the air work, but a vital life line. Nicely written book. Illustrated. $2.50

A Group of War Books Rushed Through Press

Published

van Paassen, Pierre THE TIME IS NOW! Dial

* This is no smoke screen, but a straight from the shoulder challenge to America to face facts:- the fact that Russia will never side with the allies, that English successes against Italy are negligible compared with the disaster of Dunkirk, that England cannot hold without assistance, that Egypt and the Arabs will be broken reeds to lean on. He traces the roots of Hitler's plan to subjugate the world back in 1870 and feels that Germany can survive on the new order of permanent war. Only if Dakar is kept in English hands can hemisphere encirclement be prevented - this is more vital even than the Battle of the Atlantic. Block that path! An incisive little book, which, with van Paassen's name, should reach a wide market. $1.00

The Official British Air Ministry THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN Garden City

The actual record of the R.A.F. in the first great air battle of history, as given in the report made by the Air Ministry to the English people. Good statistical, official material, which sold - in England - over a million in the first two weeks after publication. From Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 1940 - revealing methods of German attack, broad tactics for interception and battle, figures of total casualities, pictures and diagrams of planes involved, the results in warding off German victory. Profits to be donated to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund. $ .25

Masefield, John THE NINE DAYS WONDER Macmillan

England's poet laureate has produced an almost coldly logical, unimpassioned record of incredible daring and organization by which the B.E.F. was rescued from the beaches of Dunkirk, under withering fire, cut off by German troops and blazing oil tanks. There's a restraint, an austerity, a sparcity of detail that makes the final impression almost unbearable in its impact. And yet, for me, the book fails to catch the emotions, the imagination; the appeal is wholly mental, almost mechanically impersonal. The tributes are to the vessels and their officers, as officers, not as men; to the troops and their stoicism, not to men as individual human beings. One gets the pictures, but the pictures are sombre grays and blacks. An important record; an extraordinary story. But perhaps too "British" for the American palate, spoiled by the richness of diet. Includes five odes. $1.25

Roberts, Cecil A MAN AROSE Macmillan

A brief, martial eulogy to Winston Churchill, released first over the air. Strongly accented and rhythmed propaganda poetry, tracing England from the "long and weak, disgraceful years" to the time when Churchill came to lead the country. Foreword by Wendell Willkie.

Earle ~~Marie~~, Edward Mead AGAINST THIS TORRENT Princeton Press

* Here, in less than 100 pages, Mr. Earle strengthens all those who do battle against the isolationists, the pacifists, those who are deliberately blind to the peril of the "wave of the future" or who accept it as inevitable. In answer to them, Earle

says: "If England falls, the whole world, other than the Western Hemisphere, will be living in one vast blackout of mind and spirit. Perhaps at terrifying costs and by our own unaided efforts we could prevent the great darkness from reaching us, but we cannot afford to take the chance." Earle is a professor at the Institute of Advanced Learning at Princeton. As an historian he faces the facts, he analyzes the stand taken by statesmen of the past, and from Jefferson takes the title for his book; he marshals ideals and a program to turn the tide of isolationism into channels of all out aid for Britain - stop Germany now - meet and overwhelm "the wave of the future". One of the most powerful indictments of the appeasers we have seen. $1.00

Ward, Maisie *ed.* THIS BURNING HEAT Sheed & Ward

Another collection of letters from war-torn England, full of the spiritual significance, cutting deeper than the usual run. A group of Catholic writers attempt to see through the horror of war to something that will lift them above it. The spirit of the Catholic Church in bringing faith and courage to her people will inspire Americans of all faiths to realize that here a great moral issues is involved, not merely an issue of one faith or creed. The book is in itself a religious experience. Do not sidetrack it "for Catholics only". It has a message for all. $1.25

Miscellaneous Late Arrivals

Berg, Patty GOLF Barnes

The former National Women's Golf Champion shares the results of her own training and experience, and her success in imparting her knowledge of the game to readers, beginners and those who would improve their game. Miss Berg feels that the right start, correct method, a will to accomplish, and practice form the ABC's of the links. She illustrates each step of her instructions with action photographs. Equipment, grip, stance, address, wrist and hand action, wood and iron play, chipping and pitching, sand trap shots, putting - the do's and the dont's. A useful book.$1.00

Hopper, Millard BACKGAMMON Barnes

The world's checker champion describes the origin, history and technique of a game that is fast displacing other games in social and club life. With diagrams and charts, he develops the set up, the play, the rules, the strategy, the scoring. He illustrates with a complete game; analyzes various types of games; weighs the balance between luck and skill; indicates modern additions to the game. $1.00

Tunis, John R. DEMOCRACY AND SPORT Barnes

To Tunis sport means fun and pleasure, not victory and superiority and dominion over a rival, not for use as groundwork in training for military destruction. He shows how democracy and sport are intertwined, both having a basis of fair play, rules, team work. He criticizes both when they fail in these ideals, and feels that victory will go to those who play the game - the game of life. $ .75

Maddocks, Durward SWING YOUR PARTNERS- *Guide to Modern Country Dancing* Stephen Daye

This is fun. All I ever knew about square dances, Virginia reels, cake walks, etc. came back as I followed the basic instructions, the calls, the patterns of these country dances. A book for beginners; a book for those who would learn to organize and call country dances. Illustrated with diagrams and sketches that are really clear enough to be practicable. List of sheet music and records. $1.25

Kains, M.G. FIVE ACRES AND INDEPENDENCE Greenberg

This is included because of a combination of circumstances. A few weeks ago, I heard the book reviewed on the radio. Then, in the process of visiting bookshops and libraries through central New York, Michigan, Ohio, this book was quoted as one example of a sudden demand for a "sleeping dog", which resulted from a radio mention. It was published in 1935. Now republished in revised, enlarged edition. Now republished in revised, enlarged edition. A practical, realistic how-to-do-it book for people who have to reassess the possibilities of life in a changed world, and who have a yen to go "back to the land". Program for uninitiated, with cold, hard facts of procedure, costs, etc. $2.50

Gray, George W. EDUCATION ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE Harcourt, Brace

A factual record of the accomplishments of the international education board from 1923-1938, the story of a foundation which expended millions between wars to promote education, establish laboratories, finance research in science, agriculture, the humanities. All this at less than the cost of half a battleship. A tribute to the originator of the idea, Wickliffe Rose. Methods used - projects launched - war ravages repaired. And now, another war calls a halt. War negates science, puts democracy in eclipse, but cannot destroy the roots of what has been accomplished.$2.00

American School at Athens THIS IS GREECE Hastings House

One of the most beautiful photographic books I have seen (in a year of beautiful ones). Old Greece and new, touching elbows, in a succession of pictures reflecting life before the invasion, nature at her loveliest, man still following the patterns of the past. Royalties to go to help civilians in Greece. $2.50

American Guide Series LOS ANGELES Hastings House

Follows the usual plan for these city books, in the American Guide Series. The contemporary scene gives the real feel of the city, its tendency to sprawl, the contradictions of its architecture, the gradual emergence of a central theme, the sense of outdoor living. Natural setting - historical background - things to do and see. The Movies. Radio. The Arts. The business of pleasure. Photographic illustrations. $2.50

American Guide Series MICHIGAN Oxford

Another state book, and a good one. One does not realize until one sees it here, how varied and exciting a state Michigan is. The character of the state comes through the pattern of the book, and the section on legends and stories and songs is particularly interesting. Fine piece of book making. (May 22) $3.00

Matthiessen, F.O. AMERICAN RENAISSANCE Oxford

The half decade from 1850-1855, saw the concentration of some of the greatest works in American literature. Matthiessen takes the great men of that age, specifically Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, Whitman - and analyzes the theory and the practice of art as demonstrated through their work. He tests out his definition of the function of the artist as translating the whole soul of man into activity, through weighing their literary merit, relating them to each other, to what had gone before, what was to follow. Not a book for those demanding a human valuation, a picture of the times. But a serious critical synthesis for the scholar. (May 22) $5.00

Thompson, C.V.R. TROUSERS WILL BE WORN Putnam

I Lost My English Accent was a runaway. This hasn't quite the punch - is better taken in small doses, for at a sitting one gets too much of his diagnosis, descriptions, diatribes on New York cafe society. With poison pen he says what he thinks of the boys and girls, their pranks, publicity, famous characters, places, reporters, columnists, snobspot owners and night-lifers. He comes to the defense of Brenda Frazier, talks of debutantes and the Glamour Girl competition, of foreign nobility, of night life of the subway set and how it differs from the gilded circles. Plenty of dope on the Stork Club, El Morocco, 21 etc. Cross section (sometimes very cross) of what makes the Reds see Red. Not unfunny, but pretty smart alecky. For the gossip hound. $2.00

MacMurray, Claire AND BEAT HIM WHEN HE SNEEZES Stokes

* A gay everyday book of an average family - Mrs. MacMurray, her "favorite gentleman" and her three sons. Perhaps it ranks neither as hilarious nor sophisticated amusement, but it is the sort of book that will appeal to almost every family, as unaffected, light-hearted, easy going entertainment. Through all viewpoints you get the high and low of the domestic interlude, the little aggravations, ironies, discomforts, and the fundamental satisfactions, with a lot of good homespun commonsense. Some of this appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Has a chance for a market drawn partly from that of *The Car Belongs to Mother*, partly from *Penrod*. People will like it. (May 23) $2.00

Prentiss, Lt. Col. A.M. CIVIL AIR DEFENSE Whittlesey

A bit on the text book side, this topical presentation of the features of air bombardment, of shelters, fire fighting, alarms, masks, Air Raid Warden Service, First Aid, rescue work and debris clearance, demolition and repair, training for various services, precautions for home and industry. City organizations for defense, please note. There will probably be more readable books, but this is a good basis. Illustrated. $2.75

Add These to your Garden Book Index

Fisher, Helen Field THE FLOWER FAMILY ALBUM Univ. of Minnesota Press

This was noted when privately printed, as a useful pictorial diagram and guide to identification of most garden plants and wild flowers, under "family" classification. I've used it constantly, this year past, in spite of its rather amateur appearance. Now reissued, corrected where inaccuracies occurred, reindexed, cloth bound, with new jacket. A book for practical gardeners, for young and old. $2.50

Pirone, P.P. MAINTENANCE OF SHADE AND ORNAMENTAL TREES Oxford

Not for small homeowners, but a valuable reference book for foresters, park superintendent, conservation service, landscape architects, professional tree men. Normal tree conditions, transplanting, fertilizing. Tree troubles-diagnosis and cure. (Very little about fruit trees.) Bibliography and index. Written by the associate professor of pathology at Rutgers, well known to radio audiences. $4.50

Logan, H. Britton & Putnam, Jean-Marie SCIENCE IN THE GARDEN Duell, Sloan & Pearce

* A working aid, which carries the gardener beyond "What" to "How" and "Why". Experiments on soils, mulching, pest control, water culture, root stimulants, vitamin B, etc. Modern procedure for modern gardeners, written for the layman by experts. As exciting for the gardener as any new horizons are for the scientist. $2.50

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES IN TITLE, DATE AND PRICE

Page

Doubleday, Doran
- Binns, A.- NORTHWEST GATEWAY- from6/6 to 6/20 195
- Cheradame, A.- Title from BEWARE AMERICA to DEFENSE OF THE AMERICAS. Date from 6/6 to 5/16. Price from $2.50 to $3.00 215
- McKee, Ruth E.- CHRISTOPHER STRANGE- from 6/6 to 6/20 195
- Smith, H. Allen- LOW MAN ON A TOTEM POLE- from $2.50 to $2.00 166

Harper
- Duncan, D.- HERE'S TO CANADA- from 5/7 to 5/21 165
- MacCampbell, D.- READING FOR ENJOYMENT- from June ?? to 5/21 214
- Onstott, K.- BEEKEEPING AS A HOBBY- from 4/2 to 5/21 148
- Richards & Rubin- HOW TO SELECT AND DIRECT THE OFFICE STAFF- from 6/2 to 5/21. Price from $2.00 to $2.50 215
- Travers, P.L.- I GO BY SEA, I GO BY LAND- from 5/7 to 5/21 184
- Zimmer, M.B.- STILL LIFE OIL PAINTING- from 5/7 to 5/21 166

Henry Holt
- Panken, J.- THE CHILD SPEAKS- from 5/21 to 6/2. Price from $2.00 to $2.50 162

Knopf
- Sholokov, M.- THE DON FLOWS HOME TO THE SEA- from 6/9 to 8/4 76

Macmillan
- Elwin, M.- SAVAGE LANDOR- from 5/13 to 9/23 165
- Handy, W.C.- FATHER OF THE BLUES- from 5/27 to 6/17 167
- Jones, Rufus M.- A SMALL-TOWN BOY- from 6/24 to 6/17 230
- Lee, W.S.- STAGECOACH NORTH- from 6/3 to 6/10 215
- Taft, H.W.- LEGAL MISCELLANIES- from 5/20 to 6/10 193
- Torrence, R.- POEMS- from 5/27 to 6/24 213

Simon & Schuster
- Gershwin, George- THE GEORGE GERSHWIN SONG BOOK- from 7/?? to 5/23 112

THE NEW YORK OFFICE CALENDAR - JUNE 1ST TO 15TH

6-10

June 3- Herring, Hubert- GOOD NEIGHBORS (Yale) 227
Seymour, Beatrice Kean- FOOL OF TIME (Macmillan) 206
June 6- Barber & Schabelitz- PENCIL POINTS TO MURDER (Doubleday, Doran) 160
Young, Gordon- RED CLARK TAKES A HAND (Doubleday, Doran) 189
June 9- Hueston, Ethel- PREACHER'S WIFE (Bobbs Merrill) 195
June 10 - Raine, William M.- THEY CALLED HIM BLUE BLAZES (Houghton, Mifflin) 209
June 12- Forester, C.S.- THE CAPTAIN FROM CONNECTICUT (Little, Brown) 204
Holding, Elizabeth S.- SPEAK OF THE DEVIL (Duell, Sloan & Pearce) 189
June 13- Woolrich, Cornell- THE BLACK CURTAIN (Simon & Schuster) 224

Please Add These Titles To Your May Calendars

Published- Earle, E.M.- AGAINST THIS TORRENT (Princeton University Press) 232
Thompson, C.V.R.- TROUSERS WILL BE WORN (Putnam) 235
van Paassen, Pierre- THE TIME IS NOW (Dial) 232
May 20- Ellsberg, Com. Edward- CAPTAIN PAUL (Dodd, Mead) 220
May 23- MacMurray, Claire- AND BEAT HIM WHEN HE SNEEZES (Stokes) 235
May 29- Stern, G.B.- ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST (Macmillan) 226

BULLETIN FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. IX May 15, 1941 No. 10

JUVENILE SUPPLEMENT: No. 7

PICTURE STORY BOOKS

Burton, Virginia Lee — CHOO CHOO — Houghton, Mifflin

We must have missed this when it appeared in 1937. In any case, any book you've not seen is a new book, and a picture story book about a runaway engine, while not a new idea, is timeless in its appeal. Modern feel to the sprawly illustrations, and a story with a moral not too obviously applied. $1.75

Neumann, Dorothy — COME MEET THE CLOWNS! — Macmillan

This is the sort of gay and amusing and somewhat sophisticated looking circus book that will catch the eye of the adult circus fan. The illustrations by Lydia Furbush are in full color, a beautiful piece of reproduction. But I rather question the concentrated interest on the part of children of the picture story book age in clowns. My personal experience with them has been that the clowns terrify them until they are old enough to be amused by them. The text is a bit mature, too. Perhaps this is a picture book for older children rather than small fry. $1.50

Friskey, Margaret — GRANDFATHER FROG *The Busy Loafer* — McKay

The mudflat dwellers were flooded out when the beavers built their dam. But Grandfather Frog and the wise old beaver worked out a cooperative way of life which has its moral for humans. The format seems younger than the story. $1.00

FIRST STEPS IN READING - Story Books

Brookes, Amelia — THROUGH THE ANT HILL — Lippincott

I started this with a bias against nature study metamorphosed into a fairy tale, but as I read, I found myself fascinated by the adventures of Peter in the kingdom of the ants, where his human mentality helped the instinct-controlled ants to defeat their enemies, the red ants. He saw all phases of life in the ant hill and the story makes it all seem very real, so that any child would have a different feeling about the industrious little creatures hereafter. The publishers have made a beautiful book, with good format, and attractive illustrations, eight in full color, and numerous black and whites. $2.00

Mountain, M.K. — DIGGERY-DOGS — Oxford

Adventures of a small, inquisitive black Scottie, who thought he wanted to be a pirate but who indulged his curiosity first of all on land, and got himself into all sorts of troubles. An amusing, friendly little dog story, with cunning pictures in black and white. One could wish that the author had resisted the occasional temptation to talk down to his young readers. $ .75

Fact Books

Sickels, Dorothy Judd INDIANS: *Hunters of the Plains* Garden City
ESKIMOS: *Hunters of the Arctic*

Factual content, thinly veiled as fiction, and better used as non-fiction. Through the story of an Indian lad and his sister, of the Blackfoot tribe, one sees the life and games and activities of Indian children. Robert L. Lambdin's illustrations, in color and in line, make it an effective picture book, good value. $ .50

Possibly the greater familiarity with Indian background material gives to that book more sense of a rounded picture than this. One could wish that the story element had been sacrificed a trifle to more emphasis on authentic detail. However, this too serves as a good introductory book on the Eskimo way of life. The fine illustrations by Oscar Howard, in color and in line, are a great addition. $ .50

W P A Writers' Project THE ZOO BOOK Whitman

This will prove a useful small reference book, as an introduction to basic facts of natural history covering a reasonably wide range of zoo animals, the ones that most children are first acquainted with. Accurate, simple, straightforward presentation of facts of habit, locale, appearance, accompanied with photographs. A sort of animal dictionary. An animal map of the world helps link it with geography. A table of contents lists the animals included. $ .50

BOOKS TO READ ALOUD

Ingalls, Jeremy A BOOK OF LEGENDS Harcourt, Brace

This may well prove an ideal introduction to the world of fable and myths and legend, for those seven and eight year olds who may want to go on into tales of chivalry, into Greek and Roman and Norse mythology, background of essential culture. Here, in one volume, the author has retold the Homeric legends, the stories of Prometheus and Theseus, of Nimrod, of Buddha, of Cuchulain and of Deidre, of Beowulf and of Siegfried. He has chosen characteristic legends from the inheritance of China, of Central America. And he includes the story of Roland and ends with the story of the Holy Grail. Good material for story tellers, for parents and teachers. Should be linked with other available material in the field $1.20

Chute, Marchette RHYMES ABOUT THE COUNTRY Macmillan

These rhymes have the directness and spontaneity of children's own verse, and for that reason might easily be used with little children to stimulate their natural expression of their own thought and response. As poetry, it is uneven, and not likely to appeal to children as verse to be made their own - memorized - repeated. Many everyday aspects of country life are covered, and the silhouette illustrations have great charm, and more spirit than that type of illustration usually seem to have. A good introduction to the country for city children. $1.50

STORY BOOKS FOR THE 9 - 12 's

Tarshis, Elizabeth Kent THE VILLAGE THAT LEARNED TO READ Houghton, Mifflin

* I like this tale of a Mexican village where the establishment of their first school was to be celebrated by a fiesta when every child learned to read. Pedro, whose ambition was to be a bull-fighter and not a scholar, alone spoiled the record, and the whole community cooperated to bring him into line. An original tale. (May ~~8~~ 27) $2.00

FACT BOOKS FOR THE 9 - 12's

Baker, R. Ray — SO THAT'S ASTRONOMY — Reilly & Lee

This is the third of a series of first steps in science, through the dialogue, question and answer method through which the Old Professor teaches inquiring Bobby some of the facts of science behind the things of everyday life. This book includes more than subjects usually associated with astronomy, - measuring of time, relation of weight and gravity, measuring distance, importance of glass in lenses, etc. Then he takes Bobby in imagination on a trip to the moon, the sun, the planets; he teaches him primary facts about the constellations and the Milky Way. There is no sugar-coating; the story is straightforward fact, handled in this form. Unprepossessing in appearance, but good content material. $1.00

Kent, Louise Andrews & Tarshis, Elizabeth Kent — IN GOOD OLD COLONY TIMES — Houghton, Mifflin

I wish we had more to go on than galleys this time, for this is sub-titled "an historical picture book" - and we have no data as to type of pictures, nor format. From the text, one could feel it is a reference book, to be used for early American history (dealing with Massachusetts Bay colony only), covering with intimate detail ways of life and setting, - social life, institutions, government, business, and travel. Anecdotal, briefly, but chiefly photographic in detail. Each section of expanded captions, presumably accompanying pictures, preceded by introductory descriptions. ~~(5/27)~~ 7-15 $2.00

Van Coevering, Jack — A-HIKING WE WILL GO — Lippincott

Years ago Sam Scoville wrote a little book on discovering nature through the "outdoor club". For many seasons this book had a steady sale; it probably still is the impetus for many grown ups and young people to join forces in nature study through observation outdoors, at all seasons. Now Jack Van Coevering is supplying that need through his books. The last one had to do with birds, *Real Boys and Girls Go Birding;* this one tells the true story of nature hikes, at various seasons, at lakeside, seashore, in the mountains and the woods, and through the marshes. It covers a wide range of interest, - birds, wild creatures, butterflies, insects of all sorts, flowers, fungi, and so on. An excellent combination of factual information and inspiration to go and do likewise. Illustrated with photographs. The author has used his native Michigan for much of his background, but has purposely included other parts of the country, east and west. $2.50

Wells, Zetta (and Carveth) — RAFF, THE JUNGLE BIRD — McBride

The Carveth Wells acquired a baby talking mynah in the Malayan jungles. This is a true story of his adventures, from his hungry babyhood, when rice formed his main diet, to his summer in Ridgefield, Connecticut, where he became a hardened trooper. I'll wager children who read his story will want to have one for a pet. Illustrated from life by W.R. Lohse. $1.75

FOR THE 12-15 YEAR OLDS - Fiction

Sullivan, John J. — THE LEGENDS OF FRENCH ISLAND — Bruce

Just trash, this cheaply made, cheaply written story of a group of high school boys, and the adventures in which they become involved. There's a bank holdup to launch the excitement, then gangsters, fifth columnists and F.B.I. to keep adventure stirring. The sort of book one expects to find in fifty cent modern version of the old yellowback dime novels. Not even recommended as a good "bridging book." $1.50

Colver, Alice Ross ADVENTURE IN THE WEST Dodd, Mead

A Montana ranch forms the setting for this thinly fictionized story of the adventures of the author's fifteen year old son, Jack, who spent an exciting summer on a ranch, earning his board and keep. "Judy", who had been brought up on the ranch, took his education upon herself, and found out, in the most painful way, that she had a few things to learn herself. Cattle rustlers and a forest fire and a trailer trip to the Yellowstone bring variety into the colorful round of summer activities on a modern ranch. There is a contemporary touch in the story, as Jack realizes his bond with his own country, his growing determination to find a path of service, even if he is too young to fight for her. Paul Brown illustrations. (5/20) $2.00

Davis, Lavinia PONY JUNGLE Doubleday, Doran

* Another first rate horse and children story, with an additional touch of here and now in the inclusion of two English children, here "for the duration", and of their problems of adjustment to American life, and to a strict grandmother. The story revolves around holiday activities, particularly the planning of a "jungle", modelled on the hobo jungles of which the children had read. Here is a cooperative vacation project, worked into a perfectly ordinary round of summer activities, in families without unlimited finances. One boy is absorbed in collecting specimens along the river banks; his small sister's dream of happiness is to have a pony to ride whenever she wants; the youngest member of the family is a lovable mischief, always finding out what is going on everywhere. Good family story, with enough incident to carry the story along. Illustrated by Gordon Ross. (6/20) $2.00

FIFTEEN AND UP - Fiction

Gibbs, Blanche L. & Adams, Georgiana SHIRLEY CLAYTON, SECRETARY Dodd, Mead

Career book, which fills a real need, for circumstances robbed Shirley of her chance for college, and a business school and secretarial job seemed the only answer. Through her experiences, successful and unsuccessful, many aspects of a secretary's training, opportunities and challenges are revealed. Shirley loses her first job, in a real estate office; she makes good in a publishing office; and ultimately she lands in a congressman's office in Washington. A touch of romance gives an added interest for teen age girls. (5/20) $2.00

Non-fiction

Brenner, Rica POETS OF OUR TIME Harcourt, Brace

Companion volume to *Ten Modern Poets*, including Stephen Benet, Archibald MacLeish, Vachel Lindsay, T.S. Eliot, Sara Teasdale, W.H. Auden, Stephen Spender, Elinor Wylie, W.B. Yeats. Biographical and critical appraisal, with many illustrations from the verse of the poets, and with selective lists of the work of each one. A book that should have value for older readers, for anyone interested in contemporary literature and not already steeped in modern poetry. It is a sound middle-of-the-road point of view, objective, balanced, and sufficiently stimulating to the interest and enthusiasm to carry one on to reading the poets with deeper understanding and sympathy. The touchstone of modernity lies, she feels, in the attitude of freedom, in variety of subject matter and treatment, and in the interpretation of human values in forms of modern environments. $2.50

Leyson, Capt. Burr AUTOMOTIVE OCCUPATIONS Dutton

* Perhaps the moste useful volume of this excellent series, for automotive occupations cover so wide a field, not only of vocational possibilities but of universal interest that men and boys should find this stimulating. Not only is every step in the process of manufacture (as seen in the Rouge River Ford plant), but the basic products involved are discussed at some length (rubber, steel, copper, plastics). Fully illustrated with photographs. From the vocational angle, the book is very valuable, for the author shows the system of advancement from within the ranks, chances which may grow out of apprenctice jobs, system of training, and he charts the basis of estimating financial return. He touches lightly on the labor policy, as accepted in the Ford plants, but makes no mention of unions and the problems involved. With tremendous interest in technical training, this should be popular. (5/22) $2.00

BOOKS FOR USE BY TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Commins, Dorothy Berliner LULLABIES OF MANY LANDS Harper
collected & arranged by

This is going to be of more interest to those who collect folk music than it is to parents and nursery school teachers, to which market it is presumably directed. The average person will find only two or three familiar lullabies; the balance are of interest because they are selected as representative of traditional lullabies of various nations. Source, background, words in translation and piano arrangement of each melody gives it value for use and as a reference book. (5/7) $1.50

Wolf, Anna PARENT'S MANUAL Simon & Schuster

This covers basic physical development, stressing environmental, character, mental and habit training, with the emphasis on parent training, rather than solely on child training. Not as cut and dried as the title would suggest. (For fuller report, see page 167.) Date uncertain - sometime in June. $2.50

ADULT BOOKS FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS

Christie, Agatha N OR M? Dodd, Mead

Engaging espionage tale, set in early summer, 1940, in a small English coastal town. Not a Hercule Poirot story. (For full report, see page 190.) (6/17) $2.00

Ayling, Keith-*as told to* R.A.F. *Story of a British Fighter Pilot* Holt

From Dunkirk, through October - stories of the squadron, of the leader, of men and deeds, based on factual records and interviews, and merged into a composite figure of a bomber pilot. Grand reading, with an inspired touch. (Full report - see page 197.) Illustrated with photographs. $2.50

Binns, Archie NORTHWEST GATEWAY Doubleday, Doran

Although this is a book primarily for the northwest and the Coast market, it is - for everyone - good Americana, good adventure, good biography. The story settles around the city of Seattle, with the emphasis on the years of building, from the youthful first settler, who injured himself with an ax on his first day alone - on down through the gold boom. A dramatic story, which makes good reading, good frontier flavor. (For fuller report see page 195.) (6/20) $3.00